

STATUS OF GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

(ATT#3_LGA12_SantaRosa_GWMP_1of3)

The Santa Rosa Plain (Plain) covers an area of approximately 80,000 acres and is home to approximately half the population of Sonoma County. Water supply is provided by a combination of ground water and Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) aqueduct system supply from the Russian River. The County of Sonoma, Cities of Cotati, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, and Sebastopol, the Town of Windsor, California-American Water Company and SCWA use groundwater for all or part of their municipal supply and have entered into a cooperative agreement to provide funding and support for the development of a non-regulatory, voluntary groundwater management plan for the Plain groundwater basin.

In 2009, SCWA hired the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) to conduct a stakeholder assessment to determine the level of interest in developing a non-regulatory, voluntary groundwater management plan. The CCP interviewed 55 people representing 37 organizations, including representatives from the City of Santa Rosa. Based on the stakeholder assessment, the CCP recommended convening a small steering committee to guide pre-planning and to provide education and outreach on the development of a groundwater management plan. The CCP stakeholder assessment report is included as Exhibit A to the Cooperative Agreement, which is included as document Att#3_LGA12_SantaRosa_GWMP_2of3.

In April 2010, SCWA convened a Steering Committee, representing government, municipal water suppliers, agriculture, business, environmental, and community organizations, and residential well owners. City staff participated on the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee provided education and outreach and received feedback from interested parties. Based on the feedback received, in January 2011, the Steering Committee recommended that a non-regulatory, voluntary groundwater plan be developed for the Plain.

In May 2011, the SCWA Board or Directors directed SCWA staff to prepare a work plan for the development of a groundwater management plan. SCWA hired Parker Groundwater to develop the work plan. In October 2011, a Cooperative Agreement for funding and support of the development of a groundwater management plan was executed by the County of Sonoma, Cities of Cotati, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, and Sebastopol, the Town of Windsor, California-American Water Company and SCWA. The staff report for the agreement is included as document Att#3_LGA12_SantaRosa_GWMP_3of3 and the executed agreement is included as document Att#3_LGA12_SantaRosa_GWMP_2of3.

In December 2011, a Basin Advisory Panel (Panel) was formed and began meeting to develop a Groundwater Management Plan for the Plain. The Panel consists of 30 members representing key groundwater interests: groundwater interests: Agriculture (Dairies, Farmers & Grape Growers and Wineries); Business / Developers; Environmental; Government (Tribal, State, County, and Cities); Public Health; Rural Residential Well Owners; and Water Supply & Groundwater Technical Expertise. The development of the Groundwater Management Plan is being funded by the signatories to the Cooperative Agreement as well as a grant from DWR. It is estimated that the Plan will be completed by January 2014.